

CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

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Dualism in the governing apparatus of Czechoslovakia results from the interference and personal ambition of Rudolf Slansky, former Secretary-General and leader of the pro-Moscow group of the Czechoslovak Communist Party, who wanted to replace Zapotocky as head of the government, and was aided by the Soviet Ambassador in Prague, Mikhail Siliin. Separatism in Slovakia has resulted from the opposition of the Slovak Communist leaders Husak, Clementis, Novomesky, Okali, Smidke, and a large majority in the Slovak Communist Party, against interference by Prague in Slovak matters.

4. Hindered by the increasing attacks of Slansky and his followers (Geminder, Frank and Koehler), and almost paralyzed in its activities by the dangerously growing Slovak separatism of the Husak group, the Czechoslovak Communist leaders, Gottwald and Zapotocky, have been forced to accept the Soviet demands for 23 percent increase over 1938 in Czechoslovak industrialization in view of the need of the total war potential of the Soviet bloc, and 35 percent over 1945 in Czechoslovak production, in view of the need of the total economic potential of the Soviet bloc.
5. Obliged to comply with the Soviet requests, the Gottwald-Zapotocky leadership was immediately faced with the difficult and delicate task of forcing the Czechoslovak working class to accept unpopular measures in the form of harder work, more severe restrictions, less pay and fewer social benefits. With this program, they risked a further deterioration of their positions, already undermined by Slansky's intrigues and by the opposition of Slovak separatists. The existing tension in the Central Committee of the Czechoslovak Communist Party increased dangerously after a split in the Gottwald-Zapotocky leadership when Vilim Siroky, a personal enemy and rival of Dr. Vlado Clementis in both foreign and Slovak internal affairs, with the support of Slansky and in opposition to Gottwald, insisted on Clementis' imprisonment and trial. As a result, a general crisis seized the whole Communist movement in Czechoslovakia and brought about a near state of anarchy. This crisis culminated during the crucial months of the winter of 1950-1951 in a disastrous drop in production in Czechoslovakia. As a result of the open support given to Slansky's aspirations by Mikhail Siliin, the Soviet Ambassador in Prague, Gottwald tendered his resignation, silently followed by Zapotocky. After long and difficult negotiations, the Kremlin recommended a compromise which would give a free hand to Gottwald and Zapotocky in unifying the Communist leadership in Czechoslovakia, but under the pledge of increasing production, terminate the policy of Slovak separatism, and purge all deviationists regardless of their positions in the Government or in the Party.
6. This final decision was made by Valerian Zorin, Soviet Deputy Minister of Foreign Affairs, who, as Soviet Ambassador to Czechoslovakia, successfully directed Gottwald's tactical moves against Dr. Eduard Benes in February 1948, and recently exercised supreme control over Czechoslovak affairs in Moscow. Because of this proposal for the purging of all deviationists, Gottwald was forced to accept the imprisonment of his personal friend, Dr. Vlado Clementis, whose arrest made it possible to crush the entire powerful Husak group in the Slovak Communist Party, and, for the time being, to end the era of Slovak separatism. During the period of purges which followed, Gottwald and Slansky eliminated the Trotskyites, Titoists and Nationalists as deviationists, each of them trying to eliminate as many of the other's supporters as possible, until, at the end of the summer of 1951, a new intervention by Zorin became necessary. On 6 September 1951, a final settlement of the Czechoslovak Communist crisis was reached on the following terms:
 - a. Slansky's position as Secretary of the Party, a state within a state, was abolished and Slansky was made Deputy Prime Minister.
 - b. A temporary "truce" in further purges was established, and all radicals silenced by being placed in subordinate positions.

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- c. Zapotocky was given time to reorganize production, especially in the vital mining district of Moravska Ostrava.
- d. Julius Duris, a docile and obedient Slovak, was sent to Bratislava as chairman of the puppet Slovak Government (Sbor Povereniku).
- e. In the re-shuffle of the Government, weak and inefficient administrators (General Svoboda, Evzen Erban) were replaced by more efficient organizers (Bacilek, Nepomucky, Havelka).

7. The Kremlin's acceptance of all the measures taken by the Gottwald-Zapotocky leadership on 6-7 September 1951 allowed the present Czechoslovak Government to strengthen its authority, especially in Slovakia, and also inside the Party to the detriment of Slansky's pro-Moscow group, which is now practically pushed aside. This success, however, is only temporary and conditional. A noticeable improvement in Czechoslovak production is expected by the Soviet Government in the next months, and the new Soviet Ambassador in Prague, Anatol Lavrentiev, has received strict instructions to watch all moves made by the Czechoslovak Government in that direction.

8. In case of failure by the present Czechoslovak Communist leadership, which was given full power and also full personal responsibility, the following measures will take place in Czechoslovakia:

- a. Gottwald, ill, will be invited to Moscow, and will be replaced in Prague as President of the Czechoslovak Republic by Zdenek Nejedly, 73-year-old Minister of Education, doyen of the Party.
- b. Zapotocky will be given a subordinate appointment and will be replaced as Prime Minister by Rudolf Slansky with Zdenek Fierlinger as his Deputy.
- c. Siroky will be given special dictatorial powers in Slovakia with Stefan Bastovansky as his Deputy.
- d. Soviet Marshal Konev will take over the command of the Czechoslovak Army.
- e. All Nationalists will be eliminated from the Party in a sweeping purge.
- f. A new repression of class enemies will be brutally organized and will be accompanied by the mass deportation of unreliable elements.
- g. A state of general alertness will be proclaimed giving special emergency powers to the government in economic (labor) matters.
- h. The Sovietization of Czechoslovakia will be completed.

9. Because of the practical impossibility of any Czechoslovak Government complying with the excessive Soviet goals in industrialization and production, a new and serious crisis in the Communist leadership of Czechoslovakia may be expected very shortly, on condition, of course, that no important international events interfere with that expected development.

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